



Milwaukee County

Board Chairman Lee Holloway
Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr.

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COMPTROLLER POSITION WOULD INCREASE BUREAUCRACY, TAX BURDEN

Milwaukee, WI – A coalition of Milwaukee County Supervisors, led by Board Chairman Lee Holloway, are registering their opposition to a proposed state bill that is quickly moving through the Legislature to replace the County Treasurer with a partisan comptroller. The Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC) has lobbied for this proposal without obtaining public input from Milwaukee County residents.

“Apparently, the GMC thinks we need yet another partisan politician to address the long-term fiscal challenges facing Milwaukee County. This is bad legislation, especially at a time when citizens already think government is too politicized and too big,” Chairman Holloway said. “There are a lot of unanswered questions here. The Treasurer position is a constitutional officer, and this proposal could require a change in the State Constitution. Beyond that, if the GMC thinks this is a good idea for Milwaukee County, why are they not seeking this change for the other 71 counties in Wisconsin? It just doesn’t add up.”

“The proposal distorts democratic checks and balances by adding another layer of bureaucracy at a time when people want leaner government,” said Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. “The salary and fringe benefits associated with this higher-paid position, plus a deputy and office staff, are an unfunded state mandate. This would add to the tax burden and provide no new service benefit to taxpayers.”

“The only way that I would even consider the creation of a comptroller in Milwaukee County is if it is non-partisan,” Supervisor Mark Borkowski said. “The election for a position such as this should be held in the spring, with the rest of the non-partisan offices.”

“Everybody knows we are in the middle of a very difficult budget process in Milwaukee County. The tools provided by the Governor and Legislature don’t help Milwaukee County address the nearly \$30 million in state aid cuts we face next year,” Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., said. “Now, they think they can help some more by creating another partisan, political position in Milwaukee County government. Really? What planet are they on? No other County in Wisconsin has an elected comptroller. Even the State itself doesn’t have an elected comptroller position.”

“This is a job creation bill for one political C.P.A. in Milwaukee County. We call upon the Legislature to reject this bill and instead get down to the business of creating real jobs for the struggling residents of Milwaukee County. We should work together to pass legislation that truly addresses Milwaukee County’s long-term fiscal situation,” Chairman Holloway added. “We need property tax relief by providing dedicated funding for transit, paramedics and parks, as endorsed by the voters of Milwaukee County. That’s what we need from the State.”

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